

The Washington Times

(PUBLISHED WEEKLY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1897.)

The Washington Times Company.

STILLSON HUTCHINS, President.
HUTCHINS BUILDING.

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TUESDAY, Editorial Rooms, 485;

Business Office, 1040.

Circulation Statement.

The circulation of THE TIMES for the

week ended Saturday, December 4, 1897, was

Friday, November 28, 23,200

Monday, December 1, 23,008

Tuesday, November 30, 20,904

Wednesday, December 2, 20,903

Thursday, December 3, 20,910

Friday, December 4, 20,904

Saturday, December 5, 20,904

Total, 120,825

Daily average (Sunday, \$5.00, ex-

cepted), 20,904

Communications intended for publication

in THE TIMES should be sent to the

editorial rooms, 485, and must be

accompanied by the name and address of the

writer. Communications will not be

published unless accompanied by the name and

address of the writer. Communications

will not be returned unless accompanied by

a return address. Communications

intended for publication in THE TIMES

should be sent to the editorial rooms, 485,

and must be accompanied by the name and

address of the writer. Communications

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1897.

Good for Mr. Porter.

A small commission has been created by

a recent order of Secretary Porter, which

changes the days of the President's

receptions from Thursday to Wednesday.

As things at present are, and have been for

many years, the Cabinet ladies have their

weekly receptions on Wednesday. In the

afternoon, and if the President's recep-

tion comes on Wednesday, in the evening,

these ladies say that they will not have

time for both and will be worn out. No

body wants the ladies of the Cabinet to

be worn out, but the fact remains that if

there is any possible way by which Mr. Porter

can shorten that ghastly farce called a

Cabinet reception by making it conform

with that other ghastly farce called a

President's reception—if he has hit upon a

means of reaching, overhauling, de-

moralizing, punctuating, flattening out,

crowding down, squelching up or other

ways of destroying these two horrible far-

ces—the entire town ought to rise up

and call him blessed. Theoretically, it is

very pretty for the President to mingle ac-

quiescently with his people, shaking hands

with the haughty citizens, and it is very

pretty for the ladies of the Cabinet to

meet the entire nation on a demotic

basis and offer it cakes and tea, but the

trouble is that they cannot do it theoretic-

ally; it has to be done practically. The

President's hands have to be squeezed and

shaken to a paralytic condition, the ladies

of the Cabinet must be given over to a

howling mob, and they must go

through the nerve-prostrating process of

shaking hands with people about whom

they care nothing and whose only motive

in visiting them is the most idle curiosity.

If this horrible dine-and-shake business

can be interfered with by Mr. Porter or any

other good man in the employ of the Ad-

ministration, it is matter for thanksgiving

and for grief. Nobody who has any self-

respect really enjoys being fussed and

posited and crowded by people who are

engaged merely in the business of forcing

themselves into a house into which there is

no reason that they should come. The of-

ficers of this Government are not a show,

but if they are to be made a show let them

be put where everybody can see them. Let

them sit on a platform at a public meet-

ing in a building large enough to accom-

modate the crowd. But let them not be

required to make Tuscan wax works of

themselves in a house designed by size and

furnishing only for private social affairs.

Perhaps Mr. Porter's action is the enter-

prising wedge which will split the Cabinet

reception off the social structure. If so,

Mr. Porter has done some good in the

world, even should he never do another

useful thing.

An Advertiser in Chicago.

Paul du Chaila has found that all the

thrilling experiences of life have been

exhausted for him, and the rest of us

may take a lesson out of his book. If we

will, Mr. du Chaila's reports have in-

spired in many young boys a lively desire

to go to Africa and shoot gorillas, and

sometimes they have started out with that

intention, and have had to be rescued

and carried home weeping to their families,

and the consequences were painful. It

was the impression of these youngsters that

one must go to the jungles of Africa to

meet with real adventure. The tales that

were told of good boys who sought their

adventure in the vicinity of the woodpile

and the emulsion somehow were not so

alluring.

But Mr. du Chaila has added a new chap-

ter to his life's saga, which he says is

more thrilling than anything that ever

happened to him before. He has been

saddled with the suburbs of Chicago. He

says he would rather fight a gorilla than

go through the experience again. In the

first place he was attacked while alone

and unprotected, whereas when he has

been journeying in the jungles of Africa

he has always had a company of native

assistants, who were very handy when

he met with some beast which he did not

quite understand, and they were conven-

ient, too, because being unable to read or

write they never contradicted his story.

and he could tell it in his own way. But on this occasion there were no native assistants on hand, and to Mr. du Chaila's horror he saw that there was not a soul in sight, and that settled the fact that there was no policeman in sight either. The policeman and the saloon are good friends in Chicago. No policeman being visible, the great traveler took to implying Providence for assistance, which is what people usually do when they cannot get a policeman and want to save their money. Mr. du Chaila said prayers in five languages, one after the other, in the hope that some of them would hit. Doubtless he has been in tight places before, and has said prayers in the language of whatever country he happened to occupy, and has been taken for one of the natives and helped out of his hole. Or it may be that he did not really know what language was spoken in Chicago, and wished to be sure of making himself understood. At any rate, he got away from the saloon, and if he did it by saying prayers in five languages there is some use in the Tower of Babel after all. It has been a matter of speculation for a number of centuries why mankind should have to learn so many different ways of talking, when talking is really of so little use, but possibly Mr. du Chaila has hit upon one reason for the system. At any rate he got away.

Two Libraries.
There is to be a new public library in New York city, and it is to be a fine one. The library will be situated in Bryant Park, the old reservoir being removed, and a new building, costing two and one-half million dollars, erected for the housing of the New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations. Architects have been selected to prepare the plans of the structure, and the trustees confidently expect it to be one of the finest library-buildings in the world.

This is all as it should be. The country cannot have too much beauty in its public buildings, and if New York chooses to build Washington, and then Chicago is stimulated to build New York, and San Francisco catches the fever and goes on to build Chicago, there will be just so much more fine architecture, of which the whole country can be proud and glad, and in which each particular city can delight, and to which foreign nations can look when they really want to know what America has done in the line of art. There might be a question about the wisdom of erecting fine public buildings which can be the nature of things be little more than a show, and do not minister to the real good, mental, moral or physical, of the great mass of citizens, but there can be none as to the good of the readers it should be housed in a building as artistic as possible, because that will elevate the thought of the people who go there, and exercise a silent but powerful influence over our whole civilization. Therefore, let the good work go on, and let the New York Public Library be worth taking a journey to New York to see.

But there is one point which should be noted in connection with the plan for this New York library. Before a single brick was laid, before the ground was broken for the foundation, possibly even before the plans were submitted by the competing architects, it was settled that that library should be kept open every day of the year. The resolution presented to the board provided that one or more of the reading rooms should be open on every day of the week except Sunday, and on all legal and public holidays, from 9 in the morning till 9 in the evening, and on Sundays from 1 p. m. until 9 p. m., possibly later. There will also be a free circulating branch of the library, open during the day time on Sunday, and on every evening till 10 o'clock. Thus the usefulness of the library is secured, not only to students who wish to use it for some special purpose, not only to the idle classes, who have nothing to do during the day, and who seldom have any use for a library, but to the immense mass of the people whose leisure time is only after 6 in the evening, and certain times only on Sunday. These people are at the reading rooms adopted allowed to use the library for three or four hours in the evening, all of Sunday afternoon and evening, and are permitted to take home books which the whole family may enjoy—the mother, who is tied hand and foot by the care of little children, and the old people and invalids to whom books mean so much more than they ever can to people who are well and strong. The contrast between this arrangement, which seems to have been recognized by the citizens of New York as imperatively needed, and that of our own Congressional Library, is so obvious to need any comment.

Cause and Effect.
There is a lady in St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum who wants to get out, and she has written some letters to the Commissioners informing them of that fact. Of course, it is not strange that she should want to get out—few people would choose an insane asylum as a place of residence if they could help themselves—but there appears to be some particularly aggravated circumstances in this case. The lady declares that she is in her right mind, but has not been allowed to prove the fact, and, furthermore, that she has been ill-treated. She says that, while it is all right for people to go to Cuba to rescue prisoners, they should pay some attention to people illegally confined near home. She states that the board of visitors at the asylum are afraid to offend the physicians and will do nothing for her, and, furthermore, she says that the only paper which she is allowed to read is the Washington Evening Star.

This unfortunate lady was sent to the insane asylum on July 5, 1894, after a careful examination, which resulted in her being adjudged insane. Whether it was supposed that she was a dangerous person, or whether the authorities were influenced by our stellar contemporary world full of war was left of her mind off into dreamless repose or whether the idea was that the Evening Star is peculiarly fit reading for the inmates of Bedlam, is not stated, but it appears that since that time, more than three years in all, she has been reading the Evening Star and nothing else. The misery of this condition can hardly be comprehensible to people of ordinary health and opportunities. They may read the Evening Star, but it is neutralized to them by other reading. They can peruse popular novels, theatrical programs, bill boards, and Sunday-school books, to say nothing of other newspapers, and thus take their minds off the experience. Even the poorest people do not need to read the Evening Star.

ing Star. They can stand on the street corner and see the circus go by. They can go to night saloons where books are free. They can listen to street pianos and look in shop windows. They are not shut up for three long years and compelled to read the Evening Star and associate with crazy people. The lady in question says that she is not allowed to prove her sanity. How can she be expected to prove it while she is reduced to the Evening Star for her reading? She should have a chance, however, because a person who has survived this experience and still has brains enough left to insist that she is sane is a person of no ordinary intelligence. It is not necessary to provide insane people with books on differential calculus and give them ex- pensive entertainments and dinner ex- penses. A national insanity hospital will reflect the spirit, though on occasion it may depart from the letter, of the law making power. The Congress is escaping from the hands of the people, its members to an alarming extent, in both houses, are nominated and returned under the dictation of local bosses who, in turn, are owned by wealthy private or corporate interests. What the people want to do is to escape from that slough of corruption and oppression. It is within their ability to do so. Then, when they have regained control of their own legislative representa- tion, it will be easy enough to enact laws which shall clip the wings of injunctive judicial usurpation, and make the national bench the conservator instead of the usurper of American rights.

The Christening of the Kentucky.
There is a young lady in Kentucky who feels very much injured, and she is making her views known as widely as she can. There seems to be a complication of some sort somewhere, but it is not quite clear whether it is in the Navy Department or merely in the young lady's feelings. The complication concerns the christen- ing of the new battleship Kentucky. The ship was authorized during the last Ad- ministration, and it was Secretary Herbert, who decided that it should be named Kentucky. Whether the ship was named by having that name, or the State was honored by having a battleship named Kentucky, is a question which need not be discussed now. Perhaps it was a case of reciprocity. At any rate, the ship was named Kentucky, and somehow or other this young lady got the idea that she would be the one to christen it. This being the case, when Gov. Bradley an- nounced that his daughter would figure as sponsor on that occasion, there was surprise, and sorrow, and woe, and re- marks about it. The disappointed young lady says that the honor came to her absolutely unthought, at a social gathering in Washington, and that everybody present understood the matter just as she did. Of course Secretary Herbert could promise her the pleasure of christening the Ken- tucky, if he liked, and he could promise her almost anything else in the next Ad- ministration, but how that would help Secretary Long to keep the promise is not clearly seen. If it would, there are a great many people who held office under Mr. Cleveland who would be feeling much more comfortable than they are today.

Secretary Long, however, has appointed a lady to christen the ship, and it happens that she is the daughter of Gov. Bradley. There is no special reason why she should not have appointed Mrs. Bradley, and no reason why she should not appoint anybody else, but in fact, he has in no way exceeded his authority, and is in no way bound by any promise which may have been made by Mr. Herbert. But this disappointed Kentucky young lady seems to think that she has been badly treated. A great deal can be excused to a person who feels that way. The only thing left to do is to mourn, and it seems to relieve the feelings, sometimes, to mourn loudly, and make people hear.

Alleged Injunction.
During recent years it has grown to be a fashion to denounce as anarchists all American citizens who, in any prominent sense, undertake to do to place them- selves in opposition to the organized forces of the gold and bond syndicates, the trusts and monopolies. In this way the Hon. John P. Altgeld, former governor of Illi- nois, has been assailed by all the powers of the day opposed to the interests of the plain people of America, and denounced as an enemy of modern society; but when one comes to analyze his utterances, with- out prejudice, and without reference to the manufactured opinion regarding him, which certain influences have spent labor, and talent and money to build up, it does not so clearly appear that his published views and sentiments do not fairly represent good American sense and patriotism.

For example, Mr. Altgeld sent to a New York paper, the other day, an epitome of his ideas as to government by injunction, a matter which everybody must admit is growing to be an issue before the country. In this connection he says that courts of chancery have the power to grant such injunctions as are clearly within the law, and the field of chancery jurisdiction, and but little fault was found with the practice as it formerly existed in this country. But when some of the Federal courts became mere side-door conveniences for corpora- tions—usurpation followed, and he enumerates some of them, as follows:

1st—Courts of chancery undertook to exercise a criminal jurisdiction with which they were not vested by law.

2d—They undertook to regulate by for- bidding or commanding things which the law did not forbid or command. For ex- ample, in one case forbidding men to quit the employment of a railroad, in another case commanding men to return to work for a railroad on pain of being sent to jail, in another case forbidding men from marching back and forth on the highway, and in another case forbidding a person from preaching to miners during a strike because the corporation boss did not like the tone of his sermons.

3d—They forbade things which the law already forbade, and did this for the purpose of depriving men of the right of trial by jury, so that they might be railroaded to prison without the necessary evidence to convict. Trial by jury is guaranteed by the Constitution to every man, yet these corporation judges brush it aside with a mere wave of the hand.

4th—The Constitution divides the powers of government into legislative, judicial and executive, and neither one is per- mitted to trench upon the other. Yet at present the Federal judges assume the right to exercise all three.

5th—Instead of government by law and according to the forms of law, we get government according to the whims and prejudices of one man.

6th—Gov. Altgeld expresses the opinion that "the Federal judiciary is destroying republican institutions in this country, and will have to be changed or we will have the worst form of government ever known, and that is an oligarchy of rich capitalists." He announces the conclusion that all judges "must be elected by the people, must be responsible to the people, and limited in their terms of office just as much as the legislative and executive officers are."

In this we cannot say that as yet we are ready altogether to side with Mr. Altgeld. Evils and abuses must be attacked and overcome at the fountain head, which is the national law-making power, and that, of course, is the Congress. If the law-making power is under the control of an oligarchy, it will make little difference

whether the judiciary is selective, appointive, or whether its tenure is a term of years or for life. We have witnessed the absolute suppression of the popular branch of our national legislature and supreme submission to it by elected representatives of the people who should be ashamed of themselves that they did not accept death rather than such dishonor. We have seen another and more conservative branch of that power "pacified," controlled, and several other things which need not be named, in the interests of elements and influences which antagonize the genius of democratic institutions and surely will subvert them if their domination is not checked.

A court will not rise higher than its source. A national judiciary inevitably will reflect the spirit, though on occasion it may depart from the letter, of the law making power. The Congress is escaping from the hands of the people, its members to an alarming extent, in both houses, are nominated and returned under the dictation of local bosses who, in turn, are owned by wealthy private or corporate interests. What the people want to do is to escape from that slough of corruption and oppression. It is within their ability to do so. Then, when they have regained control of their own legislative representa- tion, it will be easy enough to enact laws which shall clip the wings of injunctive judicial usurpation, and make the national bench the conservator instead of the usurper of American rights.

No Comfort in It.
(From the Atchafalpa Globe.)
It is said, to console a man when he loses his money, that he is now in position to find out who are his friends. That is consolation, a man is happier when he doesn't have to know who his friends are.

Decorative Art.
(From the Augusta Herald.)
Hocley would only approve of the chrys- anthemum and wear turkey tails in their hats we would have Novemberers that of other nation could approach.

A Warlike Sign of Peace.
(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
The opposition fellows claim that Mr. Hanna drew that olive branch from his pistol pocket.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

The consensus of opinion among states- men of all shades and political tendencies tends to the belief that there will be more talk than anything else in the matter of currency reform; that some sort of a compromise will be agreed to on the bankruptcy bill; that the House Cuban question will be dropped; that the President desires, that immigration will be restricted to the extent of establishing the literacy test, at least, and that Hawaii will be annexed. Beyond this the future of this session is largely problematical.

"The Republicans," said Senator Jones, chairman of the Democratic national committee, yesterday, "will not dare to show their hands on the question of cur- rency reform. They desire to retire the greenbacks and extend the power of the national banks indefinitely, but they are afraid to do so. They know that if they attempt this thing there will be a big split in their party, and they hesitate to take the initiative. The President is credited with being desirous of inaugu- rating something in this kind of measure, but the Republicans who come to Washington say he does not think anything will be done, while most of them state that such action is inadvisable. The speculators will prevent an action of this kind on the Cuban question, and the Administration will be guided, whether right or wrong, by that element. I am opposed to the propo- sition to annex Hawaii, but I am inclined to think that the treaty will go through. I am unshakably opposed to any policy that means the acquisition of more terri- tory by the United States."

"The Republican tariff is a dismal failure. It does not yield sufficient revenue, and is not the measure that it was supposed to be. There will be nothing beyond talk and discussion on the sub- ject of civil service reform. The duration of the session depends entirely on how mean the Republicans act. If they force the Democrats and drive measures through that body with a whip and a stick, the Demo- crats may stay here all summer, for they can't drive things through the Senate."

Senator Mills, of Texas, is one of the most bitter and at the same time one of the ablest opponents of the annexation idea. He will antagonize the annexation of Hawaii with every power at his com- mand. He will make a desperate fight to prevent it, and has told his friends that he will not be content with any per- formance of opposition, but that he will use every power at his disposal to prevent it. He will use them, and he declares that he will not give up the fight until the question is absolutely and finally settled.

On the currency question he says the Republicans will try to make an adven- ture. They will endeavor to find the Treasury notes and greenbacks into in- terest-bearing bonds and enlarge the power of banks so as to enable them to issue money to make up the void caused by the retirement of the greenbacks. They may possibly be successful in the House, the Senator says, but never in the Senate. Mr. Mills says there will be no important legislation and there is no reason why Congress should be in session very long.

Mr. Mills is one of the most radical of the friends of Cuba in the Senate, and wants to see the Senate resolution in favor of Cuban independence passed. He favors the direct intervention of the American Gov- ernment, and he is not at all deterred by the fact that the Senate has already had met all the requirements in what it had done up to this time, in passing the belligerency resolution, and subsequent action must depend on the course of the Administration and the policy of the House. That body, he presumes, will be governed by the wishes of the Executive. The belligerency resolution is now in the House, and Mr. Mills says the sentiment there is strongly in favor of it, but that the Speaker and the Administration behind him will prevent action and stifle any exhibition of patriotism.

"Absolutely nothing can come from the Spanish scheme of autonomy," said Mr. Mills. "It is too late for Spain to offer its independence, and the United States will not be stopped until Cuba has achieved her independence—a condition which I expect soon to see realized."

"I expect to see something in the shape of a tariff measure passed. The tariff has been a ridiculous failure. Breadstuffs and provisions have risen in price from failure in crops abroad, but, as always happens, cotton is down, and the South gets nothing."

Senator Cockrell does not look for any general legislation. He can be seen from his standpoint, as currency legislation for the Senate will not agree to anything the House might pass.

"There will be a lively time in the House over the appropriations," said the Senator. "The House will now go up from the White House and from every leader in order to keep expenditures down and give the tariff law a chance. The Democrats in their palmist days and their most rigid demands for economy won't let it with the Republican's efforts this year, and the fun of it all is that they will not be able to keep them down. The House will run away with the committee and the Speaker; see if it doesn't."

Mr. Cockrell is inclined to believe that in some way the Republicans will be able to annex Hawaii. He also thinks there will be some immigration legislation and that the chances are favorable for a compromise on the bankruptcy bill. There may be some talk on the subject of civil service reform, but he does not think anything will be done with the existing law.

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